keep the wood sound for a long period, is the present object of inquiry.

In concluding these observations, I have only now to add, that I think an inquiry on the subject of antidotes against the *Limnoria* is well worthy the attention of this Society; and I assure myself that the majority of its members unite with me, when I express a wish that as a Body we may be equally distinguished for practical usefulness, as for entomological science. In short, if we can save the wood-work of chain-piers and docks from the destruction of the *Limnoria*, and diminish the ruinous expenditure they entail upon us, the Society will establish no small claim to the gratitude of the public.

XXVI. *Description of a new Species of* Australian Moth. *By* G. R. Gray, *Esq.*, *M.E.S. France & London.*

[Read March 2, 1835.]

I beg to call the attention of this Meeting to a new and beautiful Australian Moth, from the superb collection of Mrs. Children, to whose liberality I have been before indebted.

As the insect in question possesses several characters totally distinct from those with which I am acquainted, I propose to form it into a separate sub-genus, with the following characters:

Order, Lepidoptera.

Section, Lep. Nocturna.

Family, Notodontidæ.

Subfam., Endromina.

Genus, Endromis.

Subgen., Chelepteryx, *m.*

Antennæ long, slender, bipectinated in both sexes, the bipectinations of the male long, while those of the female are much shorter; in both sexes they are incurved. *Palpi* very short, hairy and obtuse. *Head*, *thorax*, (especially the under part,) and *abdomen* thickly clothed with fine, long hairs, which also cover the base of the wings. *Wings* entire, broad, the fore wings subtriangular, with the anterior margin much longer than the

others; the outer margin of the male somewhat curved outwards anteriorly, and inwards near the posterior angle, while that of the female is rounded; the posterior wings with the anterior margin advanced beyond the posterior angle of the fore wings, and the outer margin much rounded, but curved at the apex in the manner of a hook or scythe; the wings of both sexes are somewhat diaphanous, being covered with hair-like scales; the discoidal cell of the posterior wings is closed. *Feet* slender, armed at the apex of the four posterior tibiæ with slender spines, the under part of the femora clothed with fine woolly hairs.

C. Collesi, Children.

Alis nigris; anticis prope apicem maculis duabus hyalinis, griseo et ochraceo-variegatis, strigis undulatis, nigris et griseis; posticis fasciâ mediâ albidâ, alterâque prope marginem undulatâ ochraceâ.

Exp. alar. ♂, 5 poll. 8 lin., ♀ 6 poll. 5 lin.

Habitat in Australia (Sydney). In Coll. Dominæ Children.

The *antennæ* and *palpi* of the male are black; *head* ochraceous; *thorax* and *abdomen* black tinged with brown, varied with an ochraceous colour. *Anterior wings* with two large diaphanous spots near the apex, between the second, third, and fourth nervures; the general colour black, varied with gray and ochraceous, in the form of waved transverse bands; the *posterior wings* black, with the hinder portion varied with ochraceous, and a longitudinal whitish band across the middle; also a waved bright ochraceous band near and running parallel with the outer margin.

The lower surface of the fore wings black, with the outer half and anterior margin mixed with gray, and an oblique transverse whitish band across the middle; also two white spots in the discoidal cell, the former nearest the base small and round, the latter somewhat lunate near the band; the nervures near the outer margin ochraceous. The lower surface of the posterior wings also black, thickly clothed with whitish or ash-coloured scales, with a waved black band and a row of black spots, one on each nervure, both of which cross near the middle.

The colour of the female insect is universally much lighter, being of an ash varied with gray; the dark uneven marginal band across the middle of the anterior wing is more apparent, but the ochraceous waved band on the lower wings of the male is scarcely visible in this sex.

This insect, as far as I am able to judge from the appearance of the imago, is perhaps allied to, and may be considered the Australian analogue of that which, both from its extreme rarity and beauty, is called in this country the "Glory of Kent," and by systematic writers "*Endromis versicolora*," which I believe (with the one in question) to be peculiar for having the antennæ bipectinated in both sexes; but further analogy cannot be ascertained, until the larva and chrysalis are made known by some resident of the country which the insect inhabits. Should chance favour me with the means of laying them before the Society, I will take the first opportunity of doing so, and thus complete my paper.

The specific name of *Collesi* was proposed by the late respected President of this Society in honour of Mr. Colles, who brought several specimens to this country; and it is with great pleasure that I have adopted the name thus proposed.

XXVII. *Observations on Insects producing Silk, and on the possibility of rearing Silk Crops in England. By the Rev.* F. W. Hope, *F.R.S., &c.*

[Read December 1, 1834.]

Previously to entering on the subject of this paper, I will offer some statistical *details*, illustrative of the vast importance to the commercial prosperity of this great country, of the few insects producing silk. These details may stimulate the entomologist to pursue particular lines of inquiry; and why may we not hope that the result of such researches will be the addition to our productive sources of various new species of these little labourers, to whom man already owes so much? species which might be available at our own doors, by their capacity of enduring our climate, and thriving on its vegetable productions, and, in case it were necessary, by having recourse to artificial means for their culture? May we not suppose the manufacturer would find his hothouses for silk-worms as profitable a speculation, with extended demand, as the fruiterer does his hothouse for the supply of the comparatively limited demand for the luxurious desserts of the rich?

In the years 1832–3 respectively, the quantity of silk imported